

## **Economic Development Monthly Report – April 2018**



### **BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION**

Staff met with business retention staff from VEDP to tour the County and help the State better understand Powhatan's existing business climate. Visits to several businesses with the County as well as VEDP staff have been scheduled for May.

Staff has updated the current existing business database, which currently is over 550 businesses with brick and mortar locations.

Staff met with the local brewery to find out what future plans were and possible events that are happening at the business.

Staff is working on a plan for a "Guide to Doing Business" in Powhatan for clearer steps in the process to opening a business.

Staff has met with three local businesses interested in expanding.

Staff made a presentation to the Chamber of Commerce to give local businesses an overview of upcoming plans for Economic Development and BRE.



### **TOURISM**

Staff held a joint tourism workshop with the Powhatan Extension office at Fairview Farms that was moderated by the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The workshop was well received with over 40 local businesses in attendance. Local businesses actively participated which encouraged collaboration of their own businesses. The outcome of this workshop is to have a new plan for tourism in Powhatan.

Staff toured the Powhatan State Park to learn of its facilities and see what opportunities it offers tourist and Powhatan citizens alike.

Staff continues to promote local events happening in the Powhatan community through social media (Facebook and Twitter).



## BUSINESS ATTRACTION

Staff has created a database of available lots and buildings for quick access for future prospects. Currently there are 13 buildings and roughly 63 lots available for either lease or sale by commercial realtors.

Staff has been actively working on updating the VEDP VaScan website to include all previously mentioned properties. Staff has reached out to realtors and is currently receiving information back from various companies with property information. At the beginning of 2018, the VaScan website showed three active properties. As of 5/8/2018, there are 21 properties listed with more to come with information being received from realtors.

Staff is working with Riverlink group to help develop content and structure the end phase of the new Economic Development website to go live in June.

Staff met with a prospect interested in opening a new agricultural venture in the County. Staff is currently working with this prospect to establish key infrastructure needs.

Staff met with site development staff from VEDP, to tour available County sites and buildings. Staff is actively getting available sites uploaded into the State's database. Currently staff has added 21 sites to the system (at the beginning of 2018, only 3 sites were listed).

### Miscellaneous

Staff visited with neighboring counties to compare strategies and get ideas for Economic Development.



### NEWS

**PIEtech** received the award for Top Workplaces by Richmond Times Dispatch for third year in a row. As well as second place in the Mid-Size Category and the Special Award for New Ideas.

**PIEtech** has also made the news for their internship program for a dual specialist in financial planning and software development.

Powhatan resident, **Lynne Doughtie of KPMG** receiving the University Distinguished Achievement Award from Virginia Tech during graduation ceremony.



### EVENTS

- **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Beef & Music Festival @ Blessed Sacrament Huguenot Catholic School** – May 18<sup>th</sup> 6-10 pm
  - The King of Swings Band, BBQ, Beer and silent/live auction.
- **Fine Creek Brewing 1 Year Anniversary** – May 20<sup>th</sup> 12-8 pm
  - Party with Eli Cook, Bluegrass, Burgers & Bottle Release
- **Summer Kickoff- Shalom Farms 1 Year Anniversary** – June 9<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm
  - Local BBQ lunch with Shalom Farms produce and Fine Creek Brewing beer.
- **Habitat for Humanity Re-dedication/Grand Opening** – June 16<sup>th</sup> 10 am-12 pm
- **Batteau Festival** – June 23<sup>rd</sup> Ending at Maidens Landing.
  - Scenic view of event from Powhatan State Park boat landing.